

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01 SSM-03 SAM-01 /096 W

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R 171533Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0148

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

UQMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 3181

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS' MEET

1. ARAB INFORMATION MINISTERS COMPLETED FEBRUARY 16 THEIR YEARLY MEETING AT ARAB LEAGUE IN CAIRO. AS USUAL ON THESE OCCASIONS, MINISTERS SOLEMNLY INFORMED EACH OTHER THAT ARAB INFORMATION EFFORT IS APPALLING AND SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. DURING PAST YEAR ARAB LEAGUE CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THAT USG RIAD IS MODERATELY SEIZED OF THIS PROBLME AND IS MAKING PERSONAL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN FUNDING AND NEW ORGANIZATION OF ARAB INFORMATION EFFORT, ESPECIALLY IN US.

2. IN CLOSING COMMUNIQUE, MINISTERS TOOK UP QUESTION OF "ZIONIST CONFERENCE" MEETING IN BRUSSELS. OFFICIAL STATEMENT STRONGLY CONDEMNED CONFERENCE, ITS PROBABLY DISTORTIVE EFFECT ON WORLD PUBLIC OPINION, AND "EXPECTED NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HOLDING MEETING IN BRUSSELS". STATEMENT STRESSED THAT ARABS DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ZIONISM, WHICH IS RACIAL-POLITICAL MOVEMENT, AND JUDAISM, ASSACRED RELIGION WHICH ALL ARAB COUNTRIES RESPECT. BELGIAN PEOPLE, TOGETHER WITH ALL PEOPLES WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, WERE CALLED ON TO UNDERSTAND REALITY OF ZIONIST PLANS TO MISLEAD WORLD PUBLIC OPINION.

3. ONLY OTHER NOTABLE OUTCOME OF MINISTERIAL MEETING WAS OFFICIAL DECISION OFFER INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT TO "PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA" AGAINST RACIAL AND IMPERIALIST ENEMIES OF ITS LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE. PRESS REPORTS DO NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THIS SUPPORT IS TO BE OFFERED.

4. COMMENT: ON BRUSSELS' CONFERENCE, BELGIAN COUNSELOR TOLD POLCOUNS THAT HIS AMBASSADOR HAD MADE DEMARCHE TO BOTH MFA AND ARAB LEAGUE TO EXPLAIN THAT GOB HAD NO LEGAL MEANS OF PREVENTING HOLDING OF CONFERENCE. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAD ALSO EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS GOB UNDERSTANDING THAT CONFERENCE WAS NEITHER DIRECTED AGAINST ARAB STATES NOR PROMOTING
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EMIRGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL, BUT THAT IT LIMITED TO CONDITION OF SOVIET JEWS INSIDE USSR AND EMIGRATION IN GENERAL. MFA REACTION WAS APPARENTLY LOW KEY AND BELGIANS HAD IMPRESSION THAT EGYPTIANS WOULD NOT MAKE FUSS. SIGNALS FROM ARAB LEAGUE WERE LESS CLEAR. BELGIAN COUNSELOR TOLD EMBOFF ALSO THAT GOB COULD ONLY TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT HOLDING OF CONFERENCE IF IT THREATENDED PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS THIS LATTER POINT HAD NOT BEEN MADE TO ARABS. EILTS

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